Hardships of workers

1173. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether our workers suffer untold hardships in countries like Malaysia and other South-Eastern countries; and

(b) if so, the action taken to take up the matter with those countries to prevent our workers from harassment?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Complaints received from Indian workers working in Malaysia mainly relate to non compliance of the terms and conditions of employment contract, bad living conditions and their passports being retained by the employers. The number of Indian workers in the other South Eastern countries is negligible and no such report of hardships of Indian workers have been received by the Indian Missions.

(b) The High Commission of India in Malaysia offers all possible assistance to Indian workers in settling their disputes with their employers and in their repatriation to India if required. Complaints received by the Mission are referred to the local Malaysian authorities for redressal. The Ministry has finalized bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on labour with the Government of Malaysia.

Suicide by Indian expatriates

1174. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether suicide among the Indian expatriates in Gulf is on the rise since 2003;

(b) whether these suicide deaths are attributed to mounting debts and resulting depression; and

(c) whether the expatriates mostly from Kerala and Tamil Nadu are trapped by credit card companies and private lenders, while being under extreme family pressure for large remittances?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) There is no definite pattern in the number of suicides of Indian expatriates in various Gulf countries between 2003 and now.

(b) No such reason has been reported.

(c) Government has not come across any such specific case.

Schemes implemented by Ministry

1175. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state: